

March 17, 2012

Eight Swan Rangers snowshoed into upper Krause Basin Saturday, under steady snowfall and the hush that is Krause Basin! They saw fresh tracks of bobcat and old tracks of wolverine!

It was a wonderful wintry day in the face of spring, warm and damp, and a great way to begin St. Patrick's Day - and much better than the rain that was forecast! The Rangers safely skirted the first avalanche deposition zone, which has run further this year than most, then turned around shy of the more treacherous upper basin.

A reminder that last year's DNRC State Lands Recreation Licenses expired the end of February, so a new \$10 license must be purchased for 3/1/12 - 2/28/13 if you intend to recreate on State Lands, which include the lower reaches of Krause Basin and Broken Leg Trail, among others along the Swan Foothills. The permits are available wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold.

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for **breakfast at 8:30, leaving at 9:30** for a partial day outing in the northern Swan Mountains and foothills.

They carpool from the Swan River School parking lot next to the Cafe.

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



The Rangers didn't need snowshoes on the first stretch of trail.



A buckskin snag is sheltered by a western hemlock trimmed in fresh snow.



Finding a snow bridge across Krause Creek.



The first avalanche chute has run this year, further than usual . . .



. . . requiring a careful skirting of the run-out zone, where trees are tilted and stripped of limbs!



Headed home, safe and sound!